

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The East German population has not been vitally affected by steps taken recently by the Soviet government, such as the visit to Tito. Increased hopefulness, which seems to be based on recent Soviet conciliatory gestures, is apparent in some quarters, but the population is more reserved in its attitude than before the Berlin Conference in 1954. Many persons express doubt that the Russians are really in earnest, and believe that it will be a long time before an acceptable agreement on reunification can be obtained. It is noted that the top-level Soviet feelers seeking peace and co-existence are offset in the minds of the East German population by the continued low standard of living, the harassment of West Berlin by the East German government, the intensification of internal-security measures, the increased "voluntary recruitment" for the KVP, etc. As a result, most East Germans do not support compromises on the question of German unity. The general feeling is that the Eden Plan represents the least that the West should accept. The tendency is to demand greater concessions, and to be willing to wait in order to get them.
2. Recent Soviet moves have caused consternation and uneasiness among middle-level SED functionaries and officials of the East German administration. They fear the Russians may propose an "Austrian" solution, or some other solution acceptable to the West, which would sacrifice them.
3. If the Geneva Conference produces no tangible results, it is predicted that the flow of refugees will increase significantly.

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